

To W. L. Garrison (?)

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New York May 22. '44



My Dear friend

I much regretted that we had not opportunity for an hours talk during the time of our late meeting. It was with that hope that I called one evening at my fathers to invite you to come round to our house, where we had several friends from Philad. Western N. Y. & elsewhere. You were not at home. But we can talk some day. As to sincerity of motive in those who have acted, with yourself, in changing the character of the Society, I entertain not a doubt - but I think you have committed a great & fatal (to the Organization - not to the cause) mistake. It is perhaps time for the Organization to be overthrown by its friends. Since its enemies failed to do it, & since I believe other & better forms of action will rise upon its ruins, this causes me no regret - no discouragement. The worse should always give place to the better. I know you think this talk so much absurdity - but it is my honest convictions. You are right, for yourself. It were most foolish in any to expect you

to forgive your Convictions of right, for theirs. The
only ground on which I think any body has a
right to complain, is, that, as the Character of
the Society was altered, it was not altered in a
perfectly Constitutional way - i. e. with previous
notice, as prescribed for amendments. I regard the
alteration, as essentially Constitutional. Nothing
is further from my thoughts than to say, do, or
think any thing to retard your operations. Go ahead
in truth's name, & keep that same good company
with which you have always fought for freedom.
I believe in the full integrity of spirit
which animates you, though I cannot go
in the same team. Maybe I shall find
something to do - & if so, we shall yet be
on the same road - or at least bound to
the same haven. I have, as you see,
written these sentences very hastily, being
hard pressed for time -

Heaven be with you, & all
the tried friends of humanity.

Sincerely J. Gibbon